(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Some posts reserved for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes remain vacant from time to time for reasons like non-availability of suitable candidates belonging to these categories.

(b) and (c) A Special Recruitment Drive was launched to fill up the backlog reserved vacancies of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. About 53,444 backlog vacancies have filled up through this Drive.

Appointment of welfare officers

2257. SHRI VAR1NDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any guidelines for the appointment of welfare officers by the Central Government particularly in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal to have the same so as to ensure that the welfare officers once appointed continue without any time limit and upto death;

(d) whether it is a fact that these officers do not submit any reports of the welfare activities undertaken and the appointment is only for personal interest; and

(e) if so, the steps that are proposed to make such officers really useful and to limit their appointments till a particular age and tenure and according to their usefulness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In Ministries/Departments, an officer of the level of Under Secretary is nominated as Welfare Officer. The guidelines for Area Welfare Officers include that their tenure shall be for two years normally and he should be a resident of the area.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Welfare Officers are appointed by the concerned Ministries/Departments for coordinating and monitoring welfare activities during the office hours. The Area Welfare Officers send reports on the matters referred to them from time to time by the Government.

(e) Does not arise.

Period of *ad-hoc* promotion

2258. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per DOPT guideline *ad-hoc* promotion can be made for a maximum period of one year;

(b) if so, whether *ad-hoc* promotee can continue in service after one year without further specific approval of DOPT;